

# LARAMIE REGION Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2016

"Conserving Wildlife - Serving People"

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

### NOVEMBER 24—Holiday closure

The Laramie Region office will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

### November 29—Black Bear Hunting Seasons public meeting

The Laramie Region will hold a public meeting to discuss proposals to Chapter 3, Black Bear Hunting Seasons. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at the Laramie Game and Fish office, 528 S. Adams St. in Laramie.

### December 26—Holiday closure

The Laramie Region office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26 to recognize the Christmas holiday.

## STOP POACHING SEEKING TIPS

On October 11 a two-year-old bull moose was shot and left next to the French Creek Road near Ryan Park in the Medicine Bow National Forest. No suspect has been identified. Anyone with information about this crime should contact the Stop Poaching Hotline at 1-877-943-3847.

## Women's pheasant hunt



Janet Merschner, (at right) founder of Shoot and Cast, Inc., hosted a women's pheasant hunt at Silver Wings Hunting Ranch in LaGrange in October. The primary focus of Shoot and Cast is to promote the ethical use of our outdoors, wildlife, and natural resources, to protect access to our public lands and to recruit others in this stewardship. Nine women joined Merschner and other volunteers and dogs for a morning hunt. It was the first time some of the women had ever hunted.

## Hunting with Heroes hosts hunt for veterans



Cheyenne Game Warden Shawn Blajszczak helped plan and coordinate a "Hunting with Heroes" hunt in Laramie County.

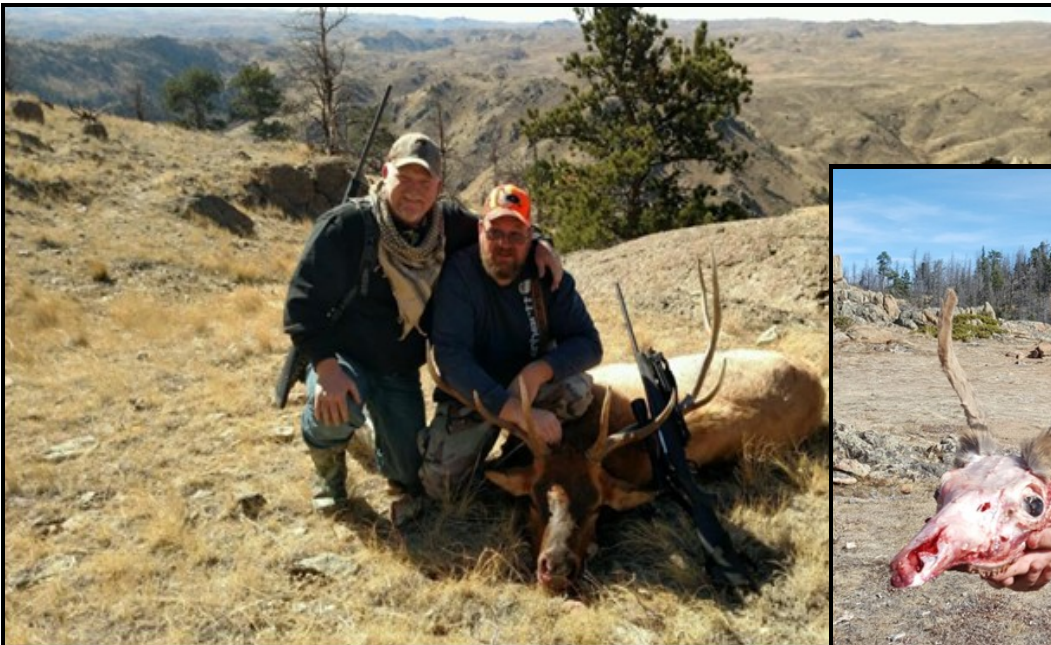
The hunt was a tremendous success for the eight disabled veterans and more than a dozen volunteers. Wyoming Hunting with Heroes is a nonprofit group that helps disabled veterans enjoy the outdoors, primarily through hunting. More information can be found at [huntingwithheroes.org](http://huntingwithheroes.org).



# Successful hunting season



Above, this nice mule deer buck was taken in Hunt Area 59. At right, two impressive pronghorn bucks were harvested in Hunt Area 11. Below, disabled veterans Scott Farmer and Mark Keller with Mark's first elk. Below right, a young hunter shot his first deer in the Six-Mile Gap area southeast of Encampment. The boy said he loves to hunt and missed a day of school to hunt with his dad. Photos by Martin Hicks and Biff Burton.







## Little America moose

Cheyenne Game Warden Shawn Blajszczak and Wheatland Wildlife Biologist Martin Hicks received assistance from several willing volunteers to relocate a yearling bull moose that wandered onto the golf course at the Little America Hotel in early October.

The moose was tranquilized at about 7:30 in the morning then loaded into a horse trailer and taken to the Pole Mountain area to be released.

Due to their size and potential for injuring humans or themselves, moose are generally relocated away from populated areas when they wander too close to towns.

## PV Mule Deer Initiative

Deer hunters in the Platte Valley continue to see the benefits of the Platte Valley Mule Deer Initiative in the form of a higher deer population, more mature bucks available during hunting season and fewer hunters competing for every buck (see photo at right).

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department implemented the Platte Valley Mule Deer Initiative in 2011 to increase public involvement in the management direction of the Platte Valley mule deer herd. The primary goal was to develop a management plan specific to this herd unit through a collaborative process with all interested stakeholders. More information can be found at [wgfd.wyo.gov](http://wgfd.wyo.gov). Photo by Biff Burton.



## CWD surveillance

Surveillance for CWD in the state's deer, elk, and moose populations was in full swing in October.

So far this hunting season, 1,645 CWD samples have been submitted to the Game and Fish laboratory from across the state. Of those, 1,488 were from hunter-killed animals (85 positives), 65 from targeted animals (animals showing signs of CWD; 12 of those were positive), and 100 from road-killed animals (4 positives).

Two new deer hunt areas have been identified so far this year; hunt area 7 near Newcastle where a doe mule deer was harvested on Oct. 1, and hunt area 128, where a buck mule deer was harvested about 12 miles north of Dubois on Oct. 8.

In the photo at left, Saratoga Wildlife Biologist Will Schultz extracts lymph nodes from an elk for CWD testing.



## Fishing around the Laramie Region

Two unique fish species were stocked in Laramie Region waters in October.

About 300 Arctic grayling from the Dubois Fish Hatchery were stocked in Huck Finn Pond in Laramie on Oct. 10. These fish were approximately eight inches long when stocked and some kids are already taking advantage of them.

In addition, about 800 golden trout were stocked into Big Brooklyn Lake in the Snowy Range on Oct. 14. Raised at the Ten Sleep Fish Hatchery, these eight-inch golden trout will diversify the Big Brooklyn Lake fishery. Now anglers who are used to catching brook trout and Splake can now hope to land a golden trout.

Saratoga Game Warden Biff Burton says anglers hardly noticed that hunting season was open because the weather was perfect for fishing. Rising water levels in the North Platte River attracted floaters after three months of low water.

Cool, clear days and cold water in the fall trigger spawning of brown trout and active feeding of other trout. Fly fishermen were successful with streamers and lure fishermen caught fish on just about every lure they tried. Anglers on the dam at Saratoga Lake did well with lures and bait during calm mornings and evenings.

In the photos at right, a happy young angler (top) with his prized grayling from Huck Finn Pond, and a happy angler with his prized seven-pound rainbow trout from Wheatland Reservoir #3.



## Fencing repairs at Sybille

October was a busy month with multiple projects in the works at the Tom Thorne/Beth Williams Wildlife Research Center at Sybille.

Employees are still in the process of fixing the last few sections of fence that were damaged during flooding this past spring. They also fixed the water gap in the new sheep pasture. This was especially challenging because they had to come up with new ideas on how to let high water and debris through but also keep animals from getting out or in.

While having the creek flow through the facility creates a nice natural environment for the animals, it brings many fencing challenges along with it. This particular section of fence was completely bogged down from debris during flooding which ultimately resulted in destruction of the fence.



# Law Enforcement



## Honesty pays in hunting mistake

On Oct. 13, a non-resident hunter accidentally shot a bull elk on a cow license in the Encampment River Wilderness.

The hunter contacted Saratoga Game Warden Biff Burton and the two met at the trailhead. Warden Burton used his horse to pack out the remaining half of the elk. The hunter forfeited a \$220.00 bond and the antlers were confiscated. He was allowed to keep the meat as a reward for his honesty and effort to properly care for the meat.

## Off-road violation

Elk hunters on Pennock Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA) reported that a party of hunters was driving off-road on National Forest land.

Laramie Game Warden Mitch Renteria followed the suspect's ORV tracks one-half mile past the well-marked trailhead at the end of the legal road. Game Wardens Biff Burton and Ryan Kenneda helped locate and identify the violators. U. S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer Mike Fuller located the suspects in their hunting camp on the Pennock WHMA. A Cheyenne hunter admitted that he and a friend drove their ORVs "a little way" past the end of the road to retrieve a bull elk. The two hunters were cited for driving off-road on National Forest land.



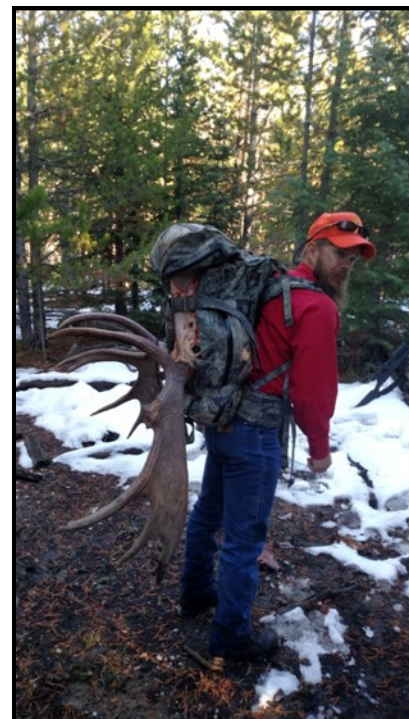
## Salvaged mule deer

The mule deer buck at left was hit by a vehicle near Walcott in October. Elk Mountain Game Warden Ryan Kenneda received a call from a hunter who wanted to claim the head. Warden Kenneda determined that the individual claiming the head had not hit the deer with his vehicle and issued an interstate game tag.

## Gored moose

Elk Mountain Game Warden Ryan Kenneda and Access Coordinator Jason Sherwood investigated a call concerning a moose that had possibly been shot on the morning of Oct. 21.

The wardens found the moose still alive and suffering. They dispatched the animal and determined it had been gored in the hind quarters by another moose. Warden Sherwood packed the moose's head out of the forest and brought it to the Laramie Game and Fish office. The antlers will be cleaned up and used for educational programs.







## Springer check station

At left, Game and Fish Department employees assist hunters during the Springer Special Pheasant Hunt. Hunters were greeted with a new check station at the Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area this year.

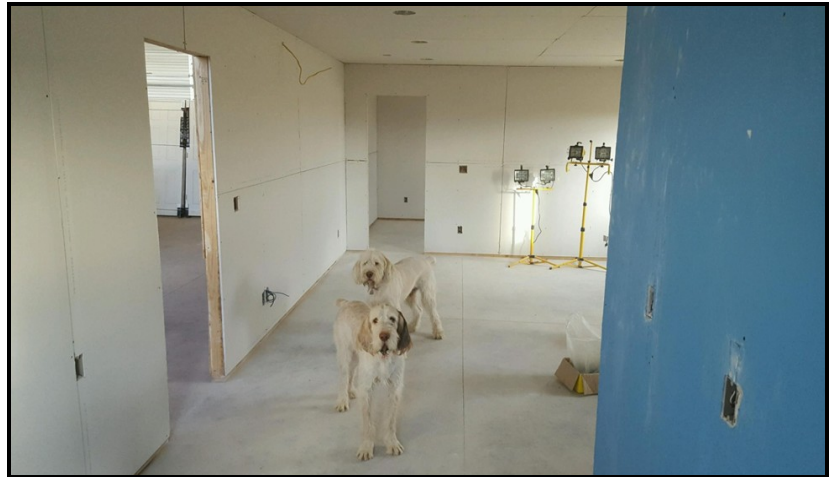
Updated electrical wiring and removal of the aging travel trailer will make the check station safer for both hunters and staff. The new building is designed to improve customer service by making check-in more efficient and giving hunters shelter from the weather while waiting.

## Saratoga shop

The electrical phase of the Saratoga shop is completed and now the shop has full power to lighting, outlets and shop appliances.

Office, meeting area and bathroom drywall is complete and ready for paint. All exterior walls and loft have been insulated.

The new facility will benefit employees by providing them with an office, meeting area and shop in a local setting.



## New horse corral

The Laramie Peak Wildlife Habitat Management Area is a base from which several branches within the department work. Many of these employees use horses as part of their daily duties, so a corral was necessary at the facility. The corral will be beneficial for all employees who use the cabin.

The Laramie Crew would like to thank Jacob Sorenson, Justin Rhine & Jason Sherwood for their help in completing this project. Photo by Micah Morris.



## Check station teamwork

Laramie Region Wildlife Supervisor Rick King and Game Wardens Bill Brinegar and Jason Sherwood assisted with a task force effort to reduce the number of hunters skipping game check stations on Highways 130 and 230.

A few out-of-region officers, as well as two wardens from Colorado, also joined the effort. The wardens made numerous traffic stops and a number of citations and warnings were issued to people failing to stop at the check stations after hunting.

Most violators appeared to be simply tired and didn't want to stop or didn't believe they were required to stop if they had only been hunting in Colorado.



## Cheater bar for difficult gate

Following several complaints of a particularly tight gate leading into the Morton Pass Hunter Management Area, Access Coordinator Jason Sherwood and Game Warden Mitch Renteria built a cheater bar to help hunters have leverage to open and close the gate properly.

Hunter Management Areas are parcels of land where the Wyoming Game and Fish Department facilitates management of hunters for access to hunt. The area may refer solely to private lands or a combination of private, state trust land and federal land within ranch boundaries. All hunters who wish to hunt these access areas must obtain a printed permission slip. The hunter pays no fee for receiving permission for access for the specific times only. Please see the individual HMA Ranch Rules for additional information on the specific species, Hunt Area(s), and number of permission slips available at [wgfd.wyo.gov](http://wgfd.wyo.gov).







## Mountain lion sighting?

Elk Mountain Game Warden Ryan Kenneda received a phone call from the marshal of Hanna a couple of days before Halloween. The marshal was concerned about a mountain lion that had been seen within the town limits and wanted Warden Kenneda to help investigate prior to Halloween when children would be out trick-or-treating.

The marshal sent a screen shot of a photo of the lion to Warden Kenneda. Kenneda was skeptical of the photo because it didn't appear to be a normal lion sighting. Kenneda and the marshal went to the location to investigate and discovered the neighbors had a mounted mountain lion and wanted to "have fun" and put it on social media.



## Backcountry checks

Ryan Kenneda spent the first couple of days in October in the back country on horseback.

He said most of the hunters that used the back country would camp at the trail heads and hike in and out each morning and evening.

Warden Kenneda was able to assist a few hunters by packing some of their harvested animals out for them.

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